

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00291 180446Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

SAB-01 DRC-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /208 W

----- 126490

P R 180430Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1382

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USINT DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0291

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT PASS DOHA

PARIS FOR OECD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, XF, TC

SUBJ: LIFTING OF ARAB OIL EMBARGO

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REF: A. CAIRO 1290; B. VIENNA 2344; C. CAIRO 1252; D. CAIRO 1242
(ALL REFS NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY KNOWLEDGABLE ABU DHABI OIL TECHNOCRAT THAT FOLLOWING TRIPOLI MTG LAST WEEK OF ARAB OIL MINISTERS, SHAIKH TAHNOUN BIN MOHAMMAD, CHAIRMAN ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL CO. (ADNOC) RECEIVED TELEPHONIC ASSURANCE FROM UAE MINPET OTAIBA THAT END OF EMBARGO AGAINST US WOULD DEFINITELY BE ANNOUNCED AT VIENNA OPEC MEETING. OTAIBA INFORMED TAHNOUN THAT SENTIMENT FOR REMOVAL VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS AT TRIPOLI, BUT DECISION DEFERRED UNTIL VIENNA MEETING TO ALLOW CERTAIN MINISTERS TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS. OTAIBA TOLD TAHNOUN THAT BOYCOTT AGAINST DUTCH WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT.

2. WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD FROM MFA AND OTHER SOURCES THAT OTAIBA'S BRIEF RE LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO SOMEWHAT AS FOLLOWS: UAEG SHOULD GENERALLY FOLLOW SAUDI LEAD ON THIS QUESTION, BUT IN FINAL ANALYSIS, MINISTER SHOULD NOT SUPPORT POLICY DECISION UNACCEPTABLE TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. AS ADDRESSEES PROBABLY AWARE, OTAIBA UNPREDICTABLE QUANTITY AND IN PAST HAS BEEN EVER READY TO CAPITALIZE ON NATIONALISTIC, ANTI US TRENDS THAT OFFER ADVANTAGE OF BUTTRESSING BOTH HIS OVERIZED EGO AND HIS RELATIVELY WEAK POLITICAL POSITION WITHIN UAEG. THEREFORE, WHEN CHIPS ARE DOWN WOULD EXPECT OTAIBA IN ANY FINAL VOTE ON LIFTING EMBARGO TAKEN BY ARAB OIL MINISTERS, TO GO ALONG WITH THE PREVAILING POLITICAL TIDE. THIS MEANS HE WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT SAUDI/EGYPTIAN POSITION, ESPECIALLY IF SYRIANS NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSED. HOWEVER, IF SYRIANS SHOULD LINE UP WITH HARD LINE LIBYAN (AND IRAQI) POSITION, THEN OTAIBA SUPPORT LIKELY TO WAIVER.
GRIFFIN

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